

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OES-06 HEW-04 /072 W

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R 022043Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4854

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 2841

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, BR

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS THAT HEALTH MINISTRY STUDY FAVORS FAMILY
PLANNING

REF: BRASILIA 2153

1. BRAZILIAN PRESS REPORTS OF MARCH 30, 1976 INDICATE THAT STUDIES IN
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WHICH WILL BE OR HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO
PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF FAMILY PLANNING
SCHEMES IN BRAZIL. MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS QUOTE BY THE O ESTADO
DE SAO PAULO HAVE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT MINISTER OF HEALTH ALMEIDA
MACHADO FAVORS POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES, AND THAT HE REAFFIRMED
THIS POSITION LAST WEEK IN MANAUS WHEN HE SPOKE
DURING THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF A CONGRESS
OF LEPROSY IN THAT CITY. THE MINISTER WAS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT
"FAMILY PLANNING IS AN INALIENABLE RIGHT OF AN INDIVIDUAL".

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS OF THE OPINION
THAT THE SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEM WOULD LIE IN THE ADOPTION OF A SYS-
TEM
THROUGH WHICH WOMEN COULD BE ADVISED BY PHYSICIANS ON WHETHER THEY
SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BECOME PREGNANT. IN THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS, THE
PHYSICIANS WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION "THE WOMEN'S HEALTH COND-
ITIONS AS WELL AS THE CONDITIONS OF THEIR FAMILIES". THE O ESTADO DE
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SAO PAULO STATES THAT ONE OF THE STUDIES RECOMMENDS THAT THE

GOVERNMENT PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO LOWER INCOME FAMILIES, SO THAT THEY DO NOT BECOME LARGER THAN THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION WOULD PERMIT.

3. THE TEXT OF MINISTER MACHADO'S STATEMNT IN MANAUS HAS NOT BEEN PUSLISHED, TO THE EMBASSY'S BEST KNOWLEDGE, AND SO FAR THER HAS BEEN NO REACTION IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS TO THE ANNOUNCED STUDIES BY THE MINISTRY OF HEAALTH.

4. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO OTHER PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTER MACHADO'S STATEMENT WAS GIVEN A PROMINENT POSITION ON THE MAIN EVENING TV NEWS PROGRAM. MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS NOT DENIED THE ACCURACY OF REPORTED INFORMATION.

5. COMMENT: MEDICAL CIRCLES HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN KNOWN TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO ADOPTION OF FAMILY PLANNING MEASURES IN BRAZIL, BUT GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY HELD BACK FROM ADOPTING IT AS MATTER OF OFFICIAL POLICY. TIME WILL TELL WHETHER REPORTED HEALTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES WILL BEAR FRUIT.

END COMMENT.

CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FAMILY PLANNING, POPULATION, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRASIL02841
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0273
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604105/aaaadmhi.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BRASILIA 2153
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORTS THAT HEALTH MINISTRY STUDY FAVORS FAMILY PLANNING
TAGS: SPOP, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006